

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03214 190940Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0554
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PEPR KS US
SUBJ: TRIPARTITE TALKS

REF: A. SEOUL 3172 (DTG 180838Z APR 78), B. STATE 098216

1. PRIOR TO APRIL 19 AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTING PING-PONG TEAM VISIT TO PYONGYANG (SEPTTEL), MORNING PRESS CARRIED ARTICLES ON PROPOSED TRIPARTITE MEETING. TONE OF THESE REPORTS, CITING ROKG SOURCES, SEEMS TO INDICATE ROKG POSITION HAS BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE. PAPERS REPORT SOURCES DISCLOSE ROKG SERIOUSLY STUDYING PROPOSAL BUT AS YET HAS NOT RECEIVED DETAILS CONCERNING TIMING, CONDITIONS, AND SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED IN ANY TRIPARTITE TALKS. SOURCES CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH ROKG HESITANT TO HAVE OPTIMISTIC VIEW ON TALKS, "THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR SEOUL TO FLATLY REFUSE TO SIT IN THE CONFERENCE" SINCE THE CONFERENCE COULD SERVE AS A FORUM TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. REPORTS CONTINUED THAT ROKG FINAL ATTITUDE WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON CONCRETE DETAILS YET TO BE DELIVERED TO ROK.

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2. THE ABOVE REPORT CONTRASTS WITH PREVIOUS NEWSPAPER COMMENTARY UNIFORMLY OPPOSING TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL. APRIL 18-19 PRESS CONTAINS ONLY ONE EDITORIAL ON THIS SUBJECT. APRIL 19 CHUNGANG ILBO EDITORIAL CONSIDERS THE U.S. ADVISING KOREA TO ACCEPT SUCH PROPOSAL AS "IMPROPER AND UNPLEASANT" IN VIEW OF LACK OF CONTACT BETWEEN ROK AND USSR/PRC.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, KYONGHYANG SINMUN IN APRIL 19 EDITION CITES "DIPLOMATIC SOURCE IN SEOUL" REPORTING MOFA ON 4/18 HAD RECEIVED FIRST NOTIFICATION OF CONTENTS OF CARTER-CEAUSCESCU CONFERENCE VIA ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON (SUPPOSEDLY FROM DOS). THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAID IT "APPEARS THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF KOREA, NO MESSAGE FROM KIM IL-SONG, NOR DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE".

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE COMPLETE TEXT OF THOSE PORTIONS OF DISCUSSION DURING CEAUSCESCU VISIT WHICH TOUCH ON KOREA, AS PROMISED REF B. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR DEPARTMENT TO THOROUGHLY BRIEF AMBASSADOR KIM ON CONTENTS OF TALKS AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

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